

Julius Caesar

Literary Terms

antagonist – the character of force that opposes or blocks the protagonist

aside – the private words that a character in a play speaks to the audience or to another character, which are not supposed to be overheard by others on stage

blank verse – poetry written in unrhymed iambic pentameter

climax – the point of greatest emotional intensity of suspense in the plot

denouement/resolution – the unraveling of all problems or mysteries of the plot

exposition – introduces characters, setting, and conflict

falling action – all action that occurs after the climax

foil – a character used as a contrast to another

iambic pentameter – a line of poetry made up of five iambs; an iamb is a metrical foot consisting of an unstressed syllable followed by a stressed syllable

imagery – language that appeals to the senses

plot – the series of related events that make up a story or drama

protagonist – the main character in fiction or drama

pun – a play on the multiple meaning of a word, or on two words that sound alike but have different meanings

rising action – all action leading to the climax

soliloquy – a speech in which a character, usually alone on stage, expresses his/her private thoughts or feelings

tragedy – a play, novel, or narrative depicting serious and important events, in which the main character comes to an unhappy end

tragic flaw – an error in judgment or weakness that eventually causes a character's downfall